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USSR Report

CONSUMER GOODS AND DOMESTIC TRADE

No. 59

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CONSUMER GOODS PRODUCTION AND DISTRIBUTION

KAZAKH LIGHT INDUSTRY REPORT FOR FIRST QUARTER 1982

Alma Ata NARODNOYE KHOZYAYSTVO KAZAKHSTAN in Russian No 8, Aug 82 pp 79-80

[Article: "More Goods for the People"]

[Text] This was the title of an editorial published in the second issue of the journal for 1982. As reported by V.A. Kozlov, deputy minister of light industry, after looking through the article, the Ministry of Light Industry has adopted measures for the elimination of the defects pointed out in it. In order to more fully satisfy the requirements of workers, to increase output and to expand the assortment of consumer goods, in the first quarter of 1982 there were installed at enterprises 420 units of high-efficiency equipment, 20 automatic and semiautomatic units and 6 efficient production lines. Work has increased on introducing the brigade form of labor organization and incentives. At the present time, more than 1,000 such collectives have been created; they employ more than 25 percent of the total number of workers.

The implementation of organizational and technical measures has made it possible to improve the use of basic production equipment: in the cotton sector, productivity of equipment used in spinning, in weaving--0.4 percent and in the wool sector--1.3 and 1.4 percent, respectively. Downtime has been reduced 1.0-1.5 percent.

The plan for product sales volume for the first quarter of 1982 was fulfilled 101.8 percent for the ministry as a whole, for gross production--102.7 percent and for labor productivity--102.4 percent. Above-plan production amounted to 15.5 million rubles. The target was fulfilled for the production of consumer goods and most designations of children's assortment.

There were produced in addition: silk fabrics--255,000 square meters, cotton fabrics--70,000 square meters, wool fabrics--17,000 square meters, hosiery--77,000 pairs, knit underwear and outerwear--228,000 each, sewn articles--1.87 million rubles' worth, leather footwear--115,000 pairs and many other products.

Much attention is being devoted to the production of goods that were formerly considered in short supply. Thus the output of knitted fabrics for underwear made from cotton and mixed yarn increased over the same period of last year by 7.2 percent, shirts from cotton and mixed fabrics by 3.8 percent, cotton shorts by 1.9 fold, overcoats, capes and jackets from mixed fabrics by 18.9 percent, rugs and carpeting by 3.8 percent.

Production of improved goods is being increased. In the first quarter of this year, goods with the state Seal of Quality were produced in the amount of 100.5 million rubles as opposed to the plan for 93.8 million rubles, goods of the N index in the amount of 52.1 million rubles versus the plan for 48.3 million rubles.

As the result of work conducted on study of demand, there were removed from production in the first quarter of this year 28 models of clothing and footwear; the production of items not in demand were reduced by 2 million rubles, while production of items in high demand was increased by 6.5 million rubles. During this period 1,000 new models of different products were introduced into production.

The operation of Kustanay Worsted Combine and Semipalatinsk Production Worsted Association improved. In the first quarter of this year, they fulfilled the plan for sold products and output of yarn and fabrics. The ministry has put the operation of these enterprises under constant control.

The adopted measures have made it possible to raise the operational efficiency of enterprises of the sector for the second quarter as well. Compared to the same period of last year, almost all the basic indicators were improved.

The article "Gordian Knot" was likewise discussed at the republic Ministry of Light Industry (No 1, 1981). As the result of adopted measures, Kustanay Worsted Combine, which was criticized in the journal, fulfilled all technical-economic indicators in the first quarter. Here constant monitoring began to be exercised over the feeding of equipment in accordance with norms of production regimes, cloth production is being expanded and the STB-2-216 weaving looms are being modernized. During this period, 243 new workers were trained and 110 persons improved their qualifications. The work of public organizations has become more active.

The production of fabrics of improved quality is constantly being increased. Thus, in the first quarter of 1982, fabrics with the esteemed pentagon were produced in the amount of 7.47 million rubles, which is 1.8 million rubles more than for the corresponding period of 1981. Their relative share in the volume of certified production grew from 21 to 24 percent.

Production of N-index fabrics was increased from 1.9 to 5.3 million rubles, that is, 2.8-fold compared to the first quarter of 1981. The relative share in the volume of certified production was 17.3 percent versus 7.2 percent.

There will be introduced at the combine this year the new Befama carding apparatuses, Tekstima warping machines, scrubbing machines, dividing and knurling machines and other equipment.

It is planned to produce fabrics with the state Seal of Quality in the amount of 24 million rubles and N-index fabrics in the amount of 10 million rubles and to develop and introduce into production four kinds of fabrics and 25 designs and to have production of first-grade fabrics reach 72 percent. For the purpose of retention of worker cadres, there will be opened two

residential buildings with an area of 8,464 square meters and a Pioneer camp. The work being done should reduce cadre turnover 2.5 percent.

For the purpose of better use of worktime, a target was set for reducing losses of worktime by 30 percent compared to 1981.

As a result of what was done, the product sales plan for the first quarter was fulfilled 101.2 percent and the plan for wool yarn--100.5 percent and fabrics--101.1 percent; the growth rate compared to the first quarter of 1981 was 102.3 percent, 100.4 percent and 104.5 percent, respectively.

The accomplishment of the outlined organizational and technical measures aimed at further increasing consumer goods, raising of their quality and expansion of their assortment will make it possible to more fully satisfy the growing requirements of the population.

The editorial "More Goods for the People" was also discussed at the Kazakh SSR Ministry of Meat and Dairy Industry. N.K. Kolot, deputy minister of the meat and dairy industry of the republic, reports that measures are being implemented for the development of production of consumer goods, expansion of their assortment and improvement of the quality of group B items. During the first quarter of 1982, products were sold above plan in the amount of 10.2 million rubles.

Measures were implemented for economical expenditure of raw-material resources and improvement of use of byproducts of reprocessing of livestock and milk for increasing the production of goods. Targets are being fulfilled for the production of cooked sausage, frankfurters, short thick sausages, chops, meat dumplings and other products with the use of light blood plasma used for food, vegetative additives, protein stabilizer, milk protein, skimmed milk, starch, casein, soy protein and other additives as well as sausage products that use subproducts of the second category, blood and vegetative raw materials.

For the purpose of economy of milk with a basic fat content, the dairy sector of the industry significantly increased the production of low-fat products and products enriched with proteins and vegetative additives (milk with a 2.5-percent fat content, protein milk and Tallinn kefir, sour cream with a 20- and 25-percent fat content, peasant-type butter), as a result of which there were saved 408,000 tons of milk of basic fat content as opposed to a target of 375,000 tons.

For the purpose of further increasing the production of consumer goods, targets were set for meat combines and production associations of the meat and dairy industry for 1982 for economy of meat resources and milk of basic fat content.

At enterprises of the meat industry, wide use is being made of the work methods of the collectives of Karaganda and Dzhezkazgan meat combines involving waste-free production technology.

Associations of the dairy industry were set a 1982 target of purchasing from the population 50,000 tons of milk which is being fulfilled ahead of schedule. It is planned to open 655 temporary receiving centers.

In 1982, it is planned to hold republic seminars for specialists of enterprises and associations on questions of further raising the efficiency and quality of labor and economy of raw and other resources.

Work is being done on organization of subsidiary rural farms and production by them of crop and animal-husbandry products for the supply of public dining for workers and employees of enterprises and associations.

In the beginning of 1982, subsidiary rural farms were set up at 24 meat combines and 15 production associations of the dairy industry. A total of 38,500 hectares of land plots was allocated for their development; 4,167 of the hectares were for sown areas. At the subsidiary rural farms of enterprises, there are maintained for growing and fattening more than 400 head of cattle, sheep--about 4,000 head, horses--more than 130 head, pigs--almost 6,000, rabbits--1,500 and poultry--400.

For strengthening of the material-technical base of the subsidiary rural farms, there were built or fixed up 20 dwellings for service personnel; Gosbank issued 457,000 rubles of loans for the construction of structures on the subsidiary farms, and measures are being undertaken for provision of agricultural equipment and means of transport.

The article "More Goods for the People" was also studied at the republic Ministry of Timber and Woodprocessing Industry. As reported by I.K. Pronin, the deputy minister of the republic's timber industry, instances noted in the article of nonfulfillment by some enterprises of the production plan for consumer goods and the manufacture of low-quality furniture at Kustanay and Kzyl-Orda furniture factories did actually occur.

The operation of the lagging enterprises was discussed at the ministry's collegium. Organizational and technical measures were worked out and are being implemented for the elimination of the existing defects in their work for the purpose of raising basic indicators and improving the quality of manufactured products.

In the first six months, the ministry ensured fulfillment of the plan for the sale of manufactured products by 101.4 percent with a growth of 5.3 percent and an overfulfillment amounting to 0.5 million rubles. The production of furniture amounted to 100.1 percent of plan and a growth of 2.8 percent. Items with the state Seal of Quality were produced in the amount of 6.6 million rubles, which is 168 percent of plan.

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CONSUMER GOODS PRODUCTION AND DISTRIBUTION

CONFERENCE HELD ON RETAIL TRADE

Moscow DEN'GI I KREDIT in Russian No 10, Oct 82 p 77

[Article by N. I. Alekseyeva: "On Setting Standard Levels of Working Capital in the Trade Sector"]

[Text] A conference of the department for the finance of the trade sector has been held in the All-Union Correspondence Institute for Soviet Trade on the topic "Problems of Setting Standard Levels for Working Capital in the Trade Sector Under Present-Day Conditions." The conference was scientific and practical in nature and was devoted to the question of determining optimum standard levels of "own" working capital for retail and wholesale organizations of RSFSR Ministry of Trade. This topic is very urgent from the standpoint of putting order into the organization of the working capital of trade enterprises.

In 1981 those working on this topic collected and analyzed factual material on the status of merchandise inventories in retail and wholesale trade organizations of Moscow, Saratov, Chelyabinsk and Ufa, of Moscow, Leningrad, Saratov and Chelyabinsk Oblasts, and of Bashkir ASSR. In 1982 standards were drafted governing the levels of merchandise inventories by commodity groups in wholesale organizations.

Prof N. S. Alekseyev, rector of the institute, made the introductory address to those present.

Prof A. M. Birman presented a paper entitled "Problems of Working Capital in the 11th Five-Year Plan and in the Eighties." The speaker emphasized that intensification of the economy organically includes better use of the time factor. One of the global economic indicators characterizing use of the time factor and of factors affecting its use is working capital. In this connection maximum attention should be paid to the problem of its effective use, of setting standard allowances for working capital in all sectors, including the trade sector. Docent V. V. Azarova presented a communication on the topic "Influence of the Forms of Wholesale Trade on the Standard Allowance of Merchandise Inventories," in which she examined the effect of the structure of the movement of goods on the mechanism for formation of merchandise inventories in wholesale trade. In a paper entitled "The Present System for Delivery of Goods and Its Impact on the Supply Interval" Ye. I. Stekol'shchikova,

docent, analyzed the question of taking into account the structure of business relations related to delivery of goods in determining the stock for replenishment.

Papers on problems of working capital in consumer cooperatives and in state trade were presented by Docent V. S. Pinishko--"Ways To Improve the Setting of Standards Governing Working Capital in Consumer Cooperatives," P. M. Chorba, candidate of economic sciences--"Problems of Setting Standards Governing Working Capital in Consumer Cooperatives," and A. D. Dzhamalov--"Method of Setting Standards Governing Miscellaneous Assets."

A number of papers were also presented at the conference which expressed various points of view concerning contemporary problems in setting standard allowances on working capital in the trade sector.

In his concluding address A. M. Birman, head of the institute's department of trade finance, expressed his belief that the results of scientific research will serve the purpose of making the trade sector more efficient.

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CONSUMER GOODS PRODUCTION AND DISTRIBUTION

SHORTCOMINGS IN LIGHT INDUSTRY WIDESPREAD, MANIFOLD

Moscow IZVESTIYA in Russian 22 Jan 83 p 2

/Article by V. Gavrichkin, Ashkhabad; A. Yershov, Kursk; V. Kulagin, Stavropol; V. Oliyanchuk, Tbilisi; V. Sukhachevskiy, Kirov; T. Chanturiya, Grodno; and M. Shimanskiy, Moscow, IZVESTIYA special correspondents: "Increase Production, Raise the Quality of Goods"7

/Text/ Sanctions for Lagging Behind

The Footwear Production Association "40 Let TSSR" is no longer young. At one time it was a leading producer, but now only the old timers can remember that era. We have often noticed customers in stores turning away from these products, having caught a glimpse of the local firm's trademark.

Inadequacies, as is well known, do not occur suddenly, all at once. A truly surprising capacity was necessary to reduce production to this low level in just over 10 years. Poor bookkeeping, outdated physical equipment, confusion over product assortment, and shoe styles which remained unchanged for years--this is a far from complete list of reasons why the firm discredited itself in the eyes of customers. Even the shoemaker's trade has lost prestige here. And it is not surprising that the concern for people has also been reduced to nothing. Housing was not built, the question of preschool institutions for children was not solved at all, nor was the matter of improving working conditions resolved. A new production building was opened here without any of the necessary service facilities for employees having been built. Even now the association does not yet have a cafeteria; people scatter throughout the neighborhood for lunch, losing large amounts of working time in the process.

It is not fair, of course, to lay the blame for this situation entirely on the shoulders of the collective. Much has been done here with the knowledge and silent agreement of the Ministry of Light Industry and Gosplan of the republic.

The association's management has been changed now. Employees with initiative have taken the leading positions, and changes were specified immediately. In the last year and a half the association has sharply upgraded its product range. On the assembly line now are shoe styles the very first consignments of which are making their way to the consumer. These are

gratifying changes. But alongside them, there are the old diseases, which have become more acute.

"We have adopted a policy of specialization, and we have come into conflict with the trading organizations," said the association's chief engineer, V. Monakov. "For example, the production line which turns out summer shoes operates year round. But in winter the trade centers do not take them; they return to us containers with summer shoes under any pretext. We know that in the summer these shoes will sell like hotcakes. However, we are not prepared to supply stores, as they say, 'on the side,' and we cannot accumulate them. Nor do the trading centers have storage centers. And business suffers as a result."

There Is No Housing--Machines Are Standing Idle.

The Kirov Textile Combine specializes in the production of industrial fabrics which are used to produce not only special industrial rubber items, but also consumer goods--motorcycle and bicycle tires and many others. However, in recent years the enterprise has allowed a reduction to occur in the output of these goods, which are in short supply. Last year alone there was a shortfall of industrial fabrics amounting to 617,000 rubles.

This failure is explained by difficulties caused by renovation. Here is what one of the oldest employees, D. Ignatovich said: "I have worked at the combine for 35 years; the shop has become for me a second home. It cannot be said that young girls do not come to us. But many of them leave quickly. People do not like the main condition of our labor: the dust and humidity in our shop. We have raised the question of improved ventilation with the management on several occasions. This would not require particularly large expenditures of funds or materials; however, everything has remained pretty much unchanged for a long period of time."

A number of the shops lack manpower. For this reason a portion of the equipment stands idle during the second and especially during the third shift. But here is information from the personnel department: last year 2,400 person-days were lost at the enterprise due to unexcused absences. However, there are still instances of certain workers being granted free days with permission of the shop management. Workers on the second shift try to leave the shop early--otherwise they cannot make the evening bus.

The situation with regard to housing is extremely serious, and the children's facilities have long waiting lists. In the last year alone about 300 people left the enterprise for this reason, and they were primarily young people. This year the city organs have taken the seriousness of the housing problem into account and set limits for housing appropriations at more than 1 million rubles. The builders were ready to accept these funds, but at the last minute the RSSFR Ministry of the Textile Industry, which has jurisdiction over the combine, denied the Kirov textile workers the necessary resources.

Up to their Ears in Debt

The opening ceremonies for the Nevinnomyssk Worsted Textile Factory were held in early 1980. "There are 50,000 spindles and the projected capacity is for the production of 3,2000 tons of fine woolen yarn," the orators said and showed in their vivid transparencies. Everyone was pleased and excited.

The wave of triumph rapidly subsided, and the heavy weather began; the joy was replaced by the bitterness of disappointments. And all because the Nevinnomyssk Worsted Textile Factory in its three years of existence has not fulfilled its quotas; it is in debt up to its ears. The results of operations in 1982, for example, look like this: the plan for commodity production was 92.7 percent fulfilled, the plan for sales was 92.6 percent realized and the plan for labor productivity was 90.8 percent fulfilled. The average wage was allowed to increase 3.3 percent faster than the indicators for labor productivity. And personnel turnover was 27.3 percent. In sum, all these percentages translate into a round sum of 7 million rubles, which is the monetary expression of the shortfall in output.

Within a short period of time the factory saw changes: three directors, five chief engineers, and all the chiefs of shops and shifts changed, and some of them more than once.

It is understandable that in such an atmosphere one should not expect great labor accomplishments. The lack of skilled workers was compensated for by overstaffing; at least if there are more people the equipment will not stand idle. This did not help. And as the bureau of the Nevinnomyssk party Gorkom stated in its decision of 22 May 1981: "Despite the factory's above-norm staffing levels for industrial and production personnel, equipment down time in all shops is three times higher than the permissible norms." And on a somewhat lesser scale, this is still true to this day. Errors in the very important matter of training personnel and strengthening discipline have led to a premature breakdown of some of the equipment and to extra repairs.

I would like to share the optimism of V. Dukhanin, the new director of the factory, and of V. Glazov, the new chief engineer, on the subject of the real possibilities for the collective to break the pattern of chronic shortfalls. The first changes have been made. In order to consolidate and develop them, more concrete help is necessary from the USSR Ministry of Light Industry. And as a first priority, there must be help to resolve social issues--specifically the creation of a vocational-technical school and sports facilities and the construction of housing.

A Portrait of Weakness

At the Smorgon Flax Plant the mood is bad: for a long time the enterprise has been unable to work its way out of its hole.

Director A. Krayniy acknowledges: "We did not fulfill the plan for even a single indicator. Matters were particularly poor with regard to realization

of output and labor productivity. Last year losses amounted to 385,000 rubles."

What is the problem? Production is disrupted mainly by stoppages in the supply of thermal energy. The flax plant is at the very end of the route, and before the thermal energy reaches it, others "take out" a significant amount of it. For this reason the soaking section is working at half strength. The process of preparing the treated fibers is extremely drawn out. Of the 24 tons of raw materials, which the plant processes every day, four tons undergo repeated drying. As a result, the quality of the flax fiber is reduced.

These problems are very familiar to the Grodno Production Association for the procurement and primary processing of flax, which has jurisdiction over the Smorgon Flax Plant. We were shown letters to the general director of the association, Comrade Smolyanchuk. The correspondence continues, but at the plant everything continues as before.

And V. Kubashin, chief engineer of the Beil'novolokno Association, thinks that the flax plant is in such a sad position solely due to interruptions in the supply of heat. And is this so? It turns out that there are other reasons as well. There are not enough special containers for retting the straw; there are many problems with the electrical loaders, which break down frequently, and spare parts are lacking for repairs. In short, there are many problems. Naturally, personnel turnover at the enterprise is high; it amounts to 31 percent. It could hardly be greater!

Tripping Instead of Helping

We met with T.V. Bashkatova at the Kursk Knitted Wear Factory. Two decades ago Tatyana Vasil'yevna was connected with the collective of Kursk knitted wear workers. From 1960 through 1974, before retiring, she was deputy director of the plant. And in the eight years following her retirement there were five directors. Bashkatov was recently invited to work as deputy director again.

"If one is speaking figuratively, then eight years ago the factory was riding a white stallion, but today, alas, it is riding an old nag," noted Tatyana Vasil'yevna with her characteristic directness and irony.

Veterans of the enterprise can recall days when trade employees literally took up guard duty at the factory: they took packages with a new consignment of goods directly from the belt of the warehouse transport vehicle. And the variety was wide: goods for children, teenagers, adults, suits made from cotton and Dacron-like fabrics, winter garments with nap and summer garments with elastic. They were not expensive to buy and they were practical to wear. And now the factory is going into its third year of breakdown.

And it all began, no matter how strange it seems, with the intensified specialization of enterprises which come under the RSFSR Ministry of the Textile Industry; this specialization was carried out, in the Mostrikotazhrom Association in the middle of the past five-year plan. During the

reorganization of the Kursk Factory, knitted underwear made from artificial silk remained the main production items. And it just happened that at precisely that time there was a sharp decline in the demand throughout the country for items made from synthetic materials, and in particular for underwear.

It could be put this way: the situation which developed revealed to a significant degree the most serious flaws in the planning for development of the industry, and in the organization of material-technical supply systems, as well as in price determination and in the interrelations between an enterprise and trade.

Nor does the collective have reliable preconditions for the stabilization of the basic economic indicators in the coming year. At the wholesale market, which was held in Moscow on 20 July 1982, buyers were not found for knitted underwear made from artificial silk with a value of 1.5 million rubles.

"We are trying in every possible way to adjust to the demands of trade," says price economist L. Zuyeva. "We have replaced the entire range. We are producing small batches of some items. Unfortunately, too much time is spent on all possible coordinating efforts at the upper levels. For example, we decided to produce three new jacket models with a total value (in retail prices) of more than 1.5 million rubles. The wholesale centers willingly bought all of the output. But a price has still not been decided upon for it! All of the primary materials are at the USSR Ministry of Light Industry. And before they are considered there and until the State Committee on Prices confirms it, a half year will have passed.

There are difficulties, as is well known, with deliveries of natural yarns throughout the industry. Given this situation, the behavior of the Mos-trikotazhprom Association managers prompts bewilderment. While making yearly corrections in the plan for natural indicators and the production of goods from cotton yarn, the planning and economic department of the association removes from production a certain number of items, but leaves the total amount of their cost (in retail prices) in the plan of the enterprise.

Young people Are Not Entering the Plant

The Tbilisi Amirani Factory produces clothing primarily for men, while the Factory imeni S. Ordzhonikidze produces primarily for women, but otherwise, they have more similarities than differences. Neither is among those plants which are lagging behind, both have provided for their growth rates, and both have increased steadily their "gross." And, finally, both have been overcome at the same time, by the latter, which by virtue of its force proved to be truly the ninth [fatal] wave.

They claim that this took place suddenly, all at once. They say that the customer became exceedingly fussy, the trading centers suddenly came under the customer's thumb, and, as a result, good merchandise (or so they described it) "did not go over." In the first quarter of last year Amirani

accumulated 5.6 million rubles worth of unrealized output, and the Factory imeni S. Ordzhonikidze accumulated 5 million rubles worth of goods.

Let us take a look at the warehouse shelves containing these "nonliquid" assets worth many millions--what do we find on them? The goods are expensive. They are the kind of clothes which, before buying we would try on seven times, check, feel and take everything into account--the stitching, the pleats, and the width of the lapels from the viewpoint of quality and fashion and how they will look tomorrow, because we are buying them not just for today. However, the crimplene dresses which the factories are offering are not even clothes for today--they are yesterday's. You couldn't give them to the customers if you tried, or so they say. But still they are offered and offered.

"Prices, prices-- they are the heart of the matter," I hear from the directors L. Gvazhay and M. Chkheidze, and I hear from the head of Gruzshveyprom Industrial Association, V. Gegidze. But comrades, this is not the problem. We have simply grown tired of the "crimplene miracle," which yesterday was so desirable!

The Gruzshveyprom Association was forced to take extreme measures to save its position. The Amirani reduced its output of woolen items by 80 percent. A rapid adjustment to a new product line was made--coats and half-coats made out of artificial fur, jackets and pants made out of velvet, and men's jackets made of fiber blends.

The Ordzhonikidze Factory reduced sharply its output of elaborate dresses and completely eliminated its coats with fur from its line. They made ends meet in the yearly plan--the corrected version--but with the greatest of effort. The association's new product line just got out in time; it consisted of cotton and linen fabrics, nonwoven safari canvas. And tomorrow another factory may need the "first aid."

The Ordzhonikidze Factory now has excellent styles of dresses, suits and skirts made out of up-to-date, pretty fabrics. But they do cost. Incidentally, in order to "replace" one of yesterday's expensive dresses, it is necessary to turn out dozens of much cheaper dresses. The planned growth rate is now 11.2 percent less than last year's, while the output of natural goods is 2.3 percent higher. What accounts for this? Purely labor productivity. And more thought should be given to it today. True, the brigade form of labor payment has been introduced with the use of the labor participation coefficient. There is a comprehensive brigade in the cutting shop. But there are few young workers. There is a high turnover of middle-rank specialists: engineers do not go to the factory. There is no dormitory, nor are there normal conditions for work or recreation. Many of these problems have also reached the acute stage at the Amirani. Plus there is the crack. In the midst of all these problems it was discovered that the old production building is aging: there is a crack in its foundation. The specialists are now studying the reason for this to determine whether it is underground water or something else which is causing the problem. The building cannot be repaired until the reasons are known. And this applies even more to production.

But Millions Have Not Been Put to Use...

Light industry is a chronic offender in the nonfulfillment of production targets for clothing, including underwear, knitted outer wear and leather footwear. Customers have made many justified complaints about the quality of a number of goods.

Industry managers are inclined to explain serious omissions in their operations by dozens of "objective" reasons, and at the same time they make poor use of those opportunities which they have been granted. Take for example, the personnel question. We expressed an interest in learning from the USSR Ministry of Light Industry about how acute this problem is in the industry, whether there are enough people, and what kind of turnover there is. V.I. Kruglova, deputy head of the administration for the organization of labor, wages and personnel, was very optimistically inclined.

"The industry has 99.2 percent of the workers which it needs," she said. "Our personnel turnover has been noticeably reduced. There are, of course, difficulties, which are explained largely by the three-shift operations of our enterprises and by the relatively low wages. But we are carrying out various measures in order to eliminate grounds for discontent.

At first glance everything would seem to quite satisfactory. But let us look at one figure which was given to us without a shadow of concern by the ministry. It concerns personnel turnover. Even with a quick glance this indicator cannot be seen as positive. And after a bit of arithmetic has been done, it turns out that the migration of worker in light industry is the main scourge of the industry. Approximately 500,000 people, that is what this relatively good, in the words of the ministry's employees, turnover indicator amounts to.

Unsatisfactory social and housing conditions constitute one of the reasons why people leave the factories and combines. There are not enough residential accommodation, children's preschools, or medical facilities. As a result, there is an acute shortage of personnel in the light industry enterprises of the Caucasian and Central Asian republics in particular. At the same time it is here that capital investments allotted by the government to the industry for housing, social and service construction are not assimilated from year to year. At Gosplan USSR we were made familiar with statistics illustrating waste. Millions of rubles are not being put to use in Azerbaijan, Tadzhikistan and Turkmenistan, tens of thousands of square meters of housing and many kindergartens are not being put into operation.

The industry-wide picture is as follows. In the last two years nearly 30 million rubles allotted by the state for housing construction has not been used. More than 120,000 square meters of housing has not been put into service. Matters are no better with regard to the construction of children's preschool facilities. In 1982 alone the industry lost more than 1,300 places in kindergartens and daycare centers, for the construction of which substantial funds had already been allotted. Many women have been forced to stay at home with children or to look for work at enterprises which show genuine concern for people.

Both the USSR Ministry of Light Industry and the RSFSR Ministry of the Textile Industry, which we asked to comment on this situation, continue to explain matters by referring to the builders' poor work. The claims against a number of building organizations are justified. For example, the No 12 Trust of Glavmosoblstroy /Main Administration For Construction in Moscow Oblast/ have been extremely slow in building a hospital complex at the Orekhovsk Cotton Combine. And Minvostokstroy has been moving at a snail's pace and in a very disorganized manner in building a similar complex at the Chita Cloth Combine.

In the collectives of a number of building organizations which are employed in the construction of housing and social-purpose or service facilities, a bad practice has taken hold: it amounts to no working on those facilities which are not scheduled to go into operation in the current year. But when the start-up period arrives, the storming, or period of intensive work, begins; this results in the project being handed over late, and frequently the quality of work suffers.

Nonetheless, a large portion of the blame also lies with the people who are placing the orders--the USSR Ministry of Light Industry and the republic ministries. They are sometimes wasteful; they are sometimes late in preparing the necessary documentation and equipment, and they do not monitor daily and in a careful manner the progress of work on vitally important facilities; this leads to a situation in which millions of rubles are not put to use, rubles which could be put to use very readily and very beneficially by other branches of the national economy. Our state allots substantial resources to light industry because in the final analysis this concerns the satisfaction of the demand for consumer goods. This need must be met with greater energy. Light industry has a great debt to the state and to each Soviet individual. It is time to pay that debt.

8543

CSO: 1827/101

CONSUMER GOODS PRODUCTION AND DISTRIBUTION

CARTOON COMMENTARY ON CONSUMER GOODS

Cartoon Commentary

Moscow KROKODIL in Russian No 5, Feb 83 p 3

— А некоторым и этого
достаточно! (1)



Рисунок В. ВЛАДОВА.

Key:

1. --But this is enough for some of them!
2. Certificate: We have no flowers.

Рисунок
С. ВЕТКИНА

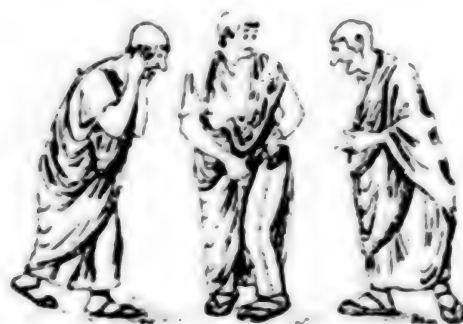


Рисунок Н. БЕЛЕВЦЕВА, г. Белгород.

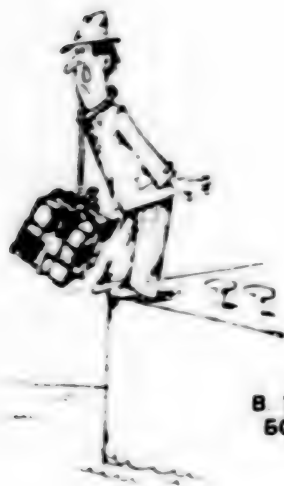


Рисунок
В УБОРЕВИЧА-
БОРОВСКОГО.



Рисунок Е. МИЛУТКИ.

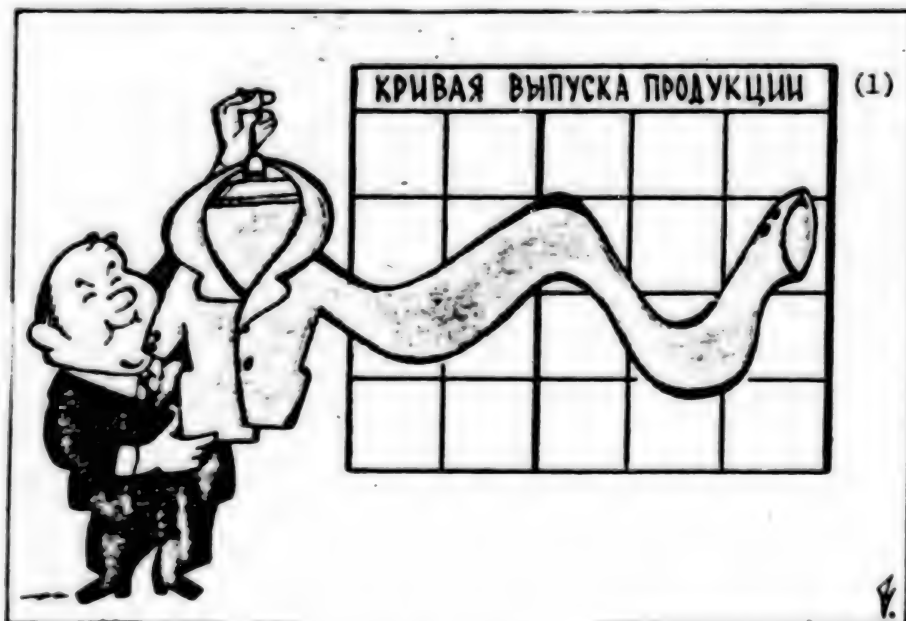
Key:

1. --A certain old crone advised me to drink infusion of cactus.

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Production Output Cartoon

Moscow KROKODIL in Russian No 5, Feb 83 p 11



Key: 1. Production output curve

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CSO: 1827/142

CONSUMER GOODS PRODUCTION AND DISTRIBUTION

BRIEFS

CHECKING ON PRICE DISCIPLINE--The USSR State Committee for Prices has checked on correctness of use by enterprises of the sewing industry of the USSR Ministry of Light Industry and of the ministries of the local industry of union republics of retail prices for men's, women's and children's wear in accordance with price lists Nos 039-1978 and 043-1979. The check was made for 1,565 models of clothing which were used in the manufacture during the period of 1981 and the first quarter of 1982 of 37,221,000 items in the amount of 458,870,000 rubles, which constitutes 9.7 percent of the total output of the enterprises that were checked. It was established that retail prices basically were being determined and used correctly. Improper determination of prices was in the direction of being too high or too low. As a result, they overreceived 287,200 rubles and underreceived 201,600 rubles. Temporary retail prices were not always justifiably used for items that did not meet the requirements of improved quality. The chief reasons for the detected violations of price discipline are insufficiently effective departmental control within the system of the USSR Ministry of Light Industry and union-republic local-industry ministries and also an inadequate skill level on the part of price-forming personnel. Some violations are due to the fact that ministries and departments are not always asked in time concerning making corrections in existing price lists for articles of clothing because of the appearance of new kinds of clothing, changes in style and technical documentation. The materials of the check were sent to the USSR Ministry of Light Industry and ministries of local industry of union republics for the implementation of proper measures. Price committees of union republics have been instructed to conduct in the first half of 1983 a check of enterprises violating price discipline. [Text] [Moscow EKONOMICHESKAYA GAZETA in Russian No 35, Aug 82 p 10] 7697

SYNTHETIC INSTEAD OF NATURAL--Gosstandart has approved a program of comprehensive standardization "Heavy Industrial Fabrics from Synthetic and Combined Threads," developed by the USSR Ministry of Light Industry. Its objective is maximal replacement of natural fibers (cotton, linen) in items of industrial use and upgrading of the quality of finished fabrics as well as allocation of the released quantity of natural fibers and yarn for the production of fabrics of domestic use. During the 11th Five-Year Plan, production volume of industrial fabrics will grow 11 percent compared to 1980. Furthermore, the volume of their production from synthetic fibers will increase 2.3-fold, while the output of cotton industrial fabrics will diminish by 51 percent. The use of synthetic fibers and threads will make it possible not only to improve

the use properties of finished products but also promotes at textile enterprises the use of pneumomechanical methods of spinning and shuttleless weaving. The use of one ton of synthetic thread permits on the average the release of 2 tons of cotton yarn. Materials intensiveness is reduced two-threefold in the production of fabrics from synthetic fibers, while the life of products is increased two-threefold and labor outlays are reduced 30-70 percent. For the solution of problems relating to release of cotton fabrics from use in production through their replacement with synthetic and artificial materials, the program provides for the development and revision of 42 normative-technical documents on raw materials, finished products and equipment. [Text] [Moscow EKONOMICHESKAYA GAZETA in Russian No 35, Aug 82 p 10] 7697

ECONOMIC SANCTIONS--Regional organs of Gosstandart under the system of use of economic sanctions for the production of poor-quality products have excluded from reports on sales monetary sums with elimination of profit for budget revenue in the following amounts: for Kamenets-Podolsk Agricultural Machinery Plant of the Ministry of Tractor and Agricultural Machine Building--248,300 rubles (4,300 rubles of profit); for Kustanay Worsted Combine of the USSR Ministry of Light Industry--149,00 rubles (6,300 rubles of profit); for the plant of nonstandardized equipment of the Ministry of Gas Industry--112,500 rubles (34,400 rubles of profit). [Text] [Moscow EKONOMICHESKAYA GAZETA in Russian No 35, Aug 82 p 10] 7697

QUALITY SEAL TAKEN AWAY--For violation of the requirements of normative-technical documents, the State Seal of Quality has been taken away from: UPKh-1.58 pile cleaner [vorokhoochistitel'] made by Uzbeksel'mash Production Association (Tashkent) of the Ministry of Tractor and Agricultural Machine Building; 3E 631 tool-grinding machine of Chelyabinsk Experimental Electromechanical Plant of Chelyabinsk'sel'khozremont Production Association of the USSR State Committee for Selkhoztekhnik. [Text] [Moscow EKONOMICHESKAYA GAZETA in Russian No 35, Aug 82 p 10] 7697

BUREAUCRACY AND FRUSTRATION--Groznyy--Do you remember the fairy tale "About the White Calf?" It ends with a noteworthy introduction: "And was silent at the picket. Shouldn't we begin the story all over again...." And that's how things have been in our case since 1979. Up to that time there had been a small stall on Ulitsa Leskova which traded in vegetables. They started to build a building next to it and tore down the stall. Then they restored it with some items unfinished. It was impossible for it to open. So a mountain of correspondence has grown up concerning the hapless stall. We write to the city fruit and vegetable trade organization; they answer to the effect that the stall comes departmentally under the Petroleum Refining Plant imeni Lenin and that some welding work has to be done. The task of a customer is to purchase rather than do welding work and get to the bottom of bureaucratic disagreements. In four years we have become tired with this "running after shopping bags" (this is what your newspaper calls trading in vegetables). We think the time is long overdue to solve this trivial matter. [Text] [Moscow SOVETSKAYA ROSSIYA in Russian 30 Sep p 2] 7697

A CITY FOR NONSMOKERS--Sofia--The first city in Bulgaria to be called a city for nonsmokers was the therapeutic center of Bankya located 30 km west of Sofia. Now its example is being followed by the city of Vyrshets, which is situated in the northwestern part of Bulgaria. The inhabitants of one-quarter of the houses in the city wished to have their houses so designated with the sign "there is no smoking in this house." The administration of the city of Vyrshets has set itself a goal to have all the city's residents as well as those who have come here for a rest and cure become actively involved in 1985 in the struggle for restriction of smoking. Another decision of major practical importance was adopted here. The vocations of teacher and health-care personnel were declared "nonsmoking" vocations. This is no accident. Science considers that the representatives of these vocations play an important role in the struggle against smoking. And there are employed in the city of Vyrshets about 200 teachers and approximately as many health-care personnel. This decision in all probability will exert a favorable influence on students as it is known that there where class supervisors are nonsmokers, the number of school children starting to smoke is much smaller. [Text] [Moscow SOVETSKAYA LITVA in Russian 26 Oct 82 p 3] 7697

PIZZA IN MOSCOW--Moscow--The Italians claim that pizza was man's first bread--the fact is that very little is required to make it: coarse-ground flour, water and fire. Perhaps it is so. But centuries passed before this flat bread again appeared in Napoli. Today's pizza in no way resembles its ancient predecessor: cheese, mushrooms and various spices have given it an inimitable taste. The tomatoes with which it is now being filled grow throughout the world. Pizza has become an international dish. Shortly, Kazbek of shashlik fame, located next to the Metro Station Ulitsa 1905 Goda, will open a cafe-pizzeria on its first floor. For a whole month Moscow chefs have been studying with Italian specialists, learning how to prepare the dough, stuffing and... traditional ways of serving customers. The cafe's menu includes six kinds of pizza with such names as Capriccio (with cheese and olives), Magareta (with vegetables), Neapolitan with tomatoes and Neapolitan with mushrooms and so forth. [Text] [Moscow SOVETSKAYA ROSSIYA in Russian 24 Oct 82 p 2] 7697

HOUSE OF PERSONAL SERVICES--Belgorod--Residents of the oblast center have received a nice present--a new House of Personal Services has opened. Its productive space equals 6,000 square meters. Its six stories house receiving centers, a sewing and knitwear shop, photo service shop, shops for the repair of footwear, clothing, household appliances, dry cleaning, painting and a hall for the viewing of clothing as well as an office for home-visiting workers. [Text] [Moscow SOVETSKAYA ROSSIYA in Russian 15 Sep 82 p 1] 7697

NEW MEAT PROCESSING FACILITIES--This year contracting organizations must do construction-installation work at meat-industry facilities amounting to 36 million rubles. There must go into operation capacities for the production of 701.9 tons of meat and the manufacture of 154.6 tons of sausage per shift as well as refrigerators with an overall capacity of 24,470 tons for simultaneous storage of meat products. For purposes of comparison--last year capacities went into operation for output of 371 tons of meat and manufacture of 46.4 tons of sausage per shift. [Text] [Moscow STROITEL'NAYA GAZETA in Russian 15 Sep 82 p 1] 7697

IMPROVEMENTS FOR MACHINEBUILDING SECTOR--Critical comments are being studied at the Ministry of Machinebuilding for Light and Food Industry and Household Appliances. Concrete measures are being determined for the elimination of the deficiencies. In particular, a schedule was approved for the revision of obsolete instructions on norm setting of resource outlays. It was specified to have the coefficient of capacity use of rolled steel reach 0.77. It was also planned to develop and expand subject, part and production specialization of enterprises and to improve use of equipment. [Text] [Moscow EKONOMICHESKAYA GAZETA in Russian No 42, Oct 82 p 4] 7697

FOOD-INDUSTRY WORKERS HONORED--A triumphant meeting dedicated to the Day of Food-Industry Workers was held 15 October in Kishinev. Its participants hailed representatives of labor collectives and the capital's community. A.I. Chekoy, minister of Moldavian SSR food industry, delivered an address. The food program, he said, sets a task for the workers of all sectors of the food industry to increase production output. Its successful solution will contribute to the strengthening of ties for all segments of the agroindustrial complex. Much remains to be done for the further development of the processing industry. During the 11th Five-Year Plan more than 800 million rubles are being allocated in the republic for this purpose, which is almost double the indicator of the preceding five-year plan. There took part in the triumphal meeting members of the Bureau of the Central Committee of the Communist Party of Moldavia--Secretary of the Central Committee of the Communist Party of Moldavia Ye.P. Kalenik and First Deputy Chairman of the Moldavian SSR Council of Ministers G.A. Stepanov and Deputy Chairman of the Presidium of the Moldavian SSR Supreme Soviet S.S. Sidorenko. [Text] [Kishinev SOVetskaya Moldaviya in Russian 16 Oct 82 p 1] 7697

ELECTRIC RINGS--Moscow--I read in the paper a remark by M. Kornivenko, director of Factory Kitchen No 1 at the Motor-Vehicle Plant imeni Leninskiy Komsomol and honored trade worker. "The model is good, the problem is with series" and the replay to it by S. Tsyganov and V. Mal'kov, heads of the food combine at Rossiya Hotel, and I want to contribute some clarity to the matter touched upon. Series production of electric rings [elektrokonforki] with filled tubular electric heaters was begun at Khshchevskiy Mechanical Casting Plant of Rostorgmontazh in Krasnodar Kray. Furthermore, in addition to the electric plates developed at the scientific-research institute of the trade machine-building trust referred to in the published materials, Lyubertsy Special Design Bureau of trade machine building is engaged in work on the design of electric rings with high and economical technical and operational characteristics. They are in particular less metal intensive and use considerably less electric energy compared to the rings presently in operation. After the fabrication in 1983 of experimental models of these rings, they will undergo production tests at public-dining enterprises, and the question will be resolved of series production of the best model at trade machine-building plants. [Text] [Moscow SOVetskaya Torgovlya in Russian 4 Nov 82 p 3] 7697

NEW SMALL WASHING MACHINE--At the consumer goods shop of Kiev Aviation Production Association, production has been started on a new item. Lybed' is a small size washing machine, which buyers have been waiting for a long time. It is noiseless in operation, does a good job of washing laundry and has received

a high rating for its design. Through the use of plastics instead of metal for its body, boiler and other parts, the developers and fabricators reduced the weight of the new machine to 13 kilograms. The first batch of the new small size washing machines has been placed in stores. [Text] [Moscow SOTSIALISTICHESKAYA INDUSTRIYA in Russian 14 Oct 82 p 2] 7697

NEW TELEVISION TRANSFORMER--Novgorod--The Novgorod Complex Association has started the series production of a new-type transformer. "Our new product is at the level of the best world models," says A. Vasil'yev, deputy chief engineer of the association. "It is meant for video-technology apparatus and black and white television sets. The new transformer has improved parameters and characteristics and is distinguished by its original design." [Text] [Moscow SOVETSKAYA ROSSIYA in Russian 23 Sep 82 p 1] 7697

CANNED GOODS IN TONS--The question of going over to planning and accounting of canned goods in tons with the introduction of a new indicator--"canned fruit and vegetable products" has repeatedly been raised by ministries and departments and jointly discussed at Gosplan USSR. Existing planning procedure cannot serve as the basis for holding back the production of pickled and salted vegetables and other fruit and vegetable products where appropriate conditions exist for their production. These products come under volume of sold products. Their production is reflected in profit and economic-incentive funds of an enterprise. As for the question of going over to the accounting and planning of the production of all types of canned goods in tons, Gosplan USSR supports this proposal and has instructed the USSR Ministry of Fruit and Vegetable Industry to prepare and to coordinate in accordance with prescribed procedure the draft of "Instructions for the Planning, Accounting and Conversion of Canned Goods by Weight (Netto) in Tons" and to present it for approval to Gosplan USSR and the USSR Central Statistical Agency. [Text] [Moscow EKONOMICHESKAYA GAZETA in Russian No 42, Oct 82 p 6] 7697

CONSUMER GOODS PRODUCTION EXPANDING--The Ministry of Electrical Equipment Industry has studied the article of First Secretary of Kursk CPSU Obkom Comrade A. Gudkov (No 173/174). This year enterprises of the industry located in Kursk Oblast will produce various goods for cultural, personal and household use in the amount of 9.8 million rubles, which is more than 1 million rubles more than the first year of the 11th Five-Year Plan. In subsequent years, the production of most of these goods will grow; it is planned in particular to expand the production of electric pumps for wells at Elektroagregat Production Association. Akkumulyator Plant is constantly increasing the production of consumer goods. In addition to its basic products, it is producing about 10 designations of different household articles. In 1979, termination of production at this plant of cells of the Planeta and A-316 type was due to the ongoing concentration at the time of production of galvanic cells and batteries at enterprises of Soyuzelektroistekhnika All-Union Production Association, which made it possible to improve the quality of the cells, reduce their production cost and increase the volume of production. [Text] [Moscow IZVESTIYA in Russian 26 Aug 82 p 1] 7697

RAILROAD HOSPITAL BEING BUILT--Korosten'--Construction is reaching conclusion of the second section of Korosten' Railroad Hospital. The therapeutic wing

recently received its first patients. It consists of a five-story building with 240 beds. It has comfortable wards for one or two persons. Patients have for their benefit elevators, first-class medical equipment, refrigerators and television sets. Finishing work is going on in the 3-story children's wing. Equipment of the boiler room and subsidiary areas is almost completed. When the hospital complex goes into operation, new departments will begin to function--traumatology, urology; the surgery, gynecology and neurology divisions will be significantly expanded. Whereas the railroad hospital formerly accommodated 300 persons now it will be able to take care of more than 500 patients. This will be one of the largest division hospitals on the Southwest line. All work on making the hospital complex operational is scheduled for completion by the new year. The builders are working ahead of schedule. [Text] [Moscow in Russian GUDOK 25 Sep 82 p 2] 7697

SCIENTIFIC-TECHNICAL SOCIETY CONGRESS--Yesterday the 8th Congress of the Scientific-Technical Society of Light Industry completed its work. N.V. Khval'kovskiy, chairman of the society's Central Board, presented an accountability report. G.A. Alekseyev, chairman of the society's Ukrainian republic board, P.P. Koketkin, director of the Central Scientific-Research Institute of the Sewing Industry, V.I. Tsakovskaya, a knitter from the Brest Outer Knitwear Factory, M.N. Tarasov, minister of USSR light industry, M.G. Dolzhenkova, chairman of the central committee of the Trade Union of Workers of the Textile and Light Industry, and other speakers pointed out that the scientific-technical socially active members of the sector were actively taking part in carrying out the tasks set by the 26th CPSU Congress for further increasing output, expanding assortment and improving the quality of consumer goods. Thanks to reequipment of the sector, there were put into operation during the 10th Five-Year Plan capacities for the production of 700 million square meters of finished fabrics, 62 million pairs of leather items and 44 million pairs of hosiery. One of the most important directions in the work of organizations of the scientific-technical society is work on cutting down of heavy manual labor in the sector. With the direct participation of the scientific-technical socially active members during the years of the 10th Five-Year Plan, more than 200 enterprises and 750 shops were comprehensively mechanized as a result of which about 260,000 persons were released. N.V. Khaval'kovskiy, chief of the technical administration of the USSR Ministry of Light Industry, was elected chairman of the central board of the Scientific-Technical Society of Light Industry. [Text] [Moscow TRUD in Russian 15 Oct 82 p 1] 7697

STORE FOR JOURNALISTS--Moscow--Mosproyekt-1 Workshop has completed the plans for the first Orgatekhnik general store, which will occupy 2,600 square meters on Tikhvinskaya Ulitsa of the capital. The large trade hall will contain a broad assortment of goods needed in journalistic work: motion-picture and photo supplies, optical supplies, typewriters, office supplies, dictating machines and video tape recorders, microphones, magnetic tape, card files, portfolios and attache cases as well as typewriter tables. [Text] [Moscow SOVetskaya Rossiya in Russian 12 Nov 82 p 4] 7697

APPEAL FOR CAST-OFF ITEMS--Every apartment, every home accumulates cast-off clothing, paper, metal and polymer items. A great deal of comparable raw material as well as useless tires, rubber, inner tubes, glass and bones is to

be found at enterprises, organizations and institutions. The use of such raw material is of tremendous benefit to the state. Comrade kolkhoz farmers, workers and employes! Pensioners and school children! Heads of enterprises and organizations! Collect and turn in cast-off clothing, waste paper, polymer and metal items to procurement organizations of consumer cooperatives. It is profitable! For example, you get 2 kopecks for 1 kg of turned in waste paper, 6 kopecks for bones and 16 kopecks for woolen rags. Similar raw materials, except for waste metal, are accepted from enterprises and organizations. [Text] [Moscow SEL'SKAYA GAZETA in Russian 10 Nov 82 p 4] 7697

STORE WITH HUNGARIAN GOODS--Quite soon the first customers will enter the Budapest name store located in Volgogradskiy Rayon of the capital. They will be able to select in the two stories of the department store manufactured goods and groceries made both in our country and in Hungary. The first floor of the store, the grocery floor, is planned to carry Hungarian specialties and the second items from the Baltic republics. The store will operate on the basis of the self-service system. For quicker services to customers, it is proposed to have a larger number than usual of cashier booths. [Text] [Moscow SOVETSKAYA ROSSIYA in Russian 17 Oct 82 p 6] 7697

CSO: 1827/24

HOUSING AND PERSONAL SERVICES

NEW INSURANCE LAWS FOR LITHUANIANS

Vilnius SOVETSKAYA LITVA in Russian 4 Jan 83 p 2

[Article by R. Sikorskis, LiSSR minister of finance: "In the Interests of the Workers. New Insurance Regulations Have Been Developed"]

[Excerpts] The services of Gosstrakh [Main Administration of State Insurance] provided to the population are being expanded with every year and are becoming increasingly popular. The number of contracts for voluntary insurance increased by more than half during the years of the 10th Five-Year-Plan.

In recent years the insurance legislation in effect has not fully met the needs of the population with respect to insurance protection. This is explained by the fact that the cost of construction up to the present time was determined by the previously effective wholesale prices for building materials, rates for their transport, and wages of construction workers. Since that time the prices, rates and [wage] rates have changed, and the cost of construction has increased. Finally, it must be taken into account that the unprofitableness of insurance operations has decreased. Taking all of this into account, the conditions for the insurance of the property of citizens are being changed as of the beginning of 1983.

First of all, the rates of insurance payments are being lowered significantly. In the case of mandatory and voluntary insurance of structures in rural localities, 35 copecks instead of 70 copecks a year will be collected for every 100 rubles of insurance coverage. The corresponding rate schedule for cities and urban-type settlements is being lowered from 50 copecks to 30 copecks.

The mandatory insurance of structures amounts to 40 percent of their cost taking into account the depreciation. In addition the owner may voluntarily insure them for an identical sum. Simultaneously with the changes that have been indicated, the list of natural calamities has been expanded in the case of which insurance compensation is paid and the limitations for its payment have been reduced. For example, the careless handling of fire will not become a basis for the refusal of the payment of insurance compensation.

Beginning with January 1983, only large-horned cattle and horses are subject to the mandatory state insurance. The annual payment per 100 rubles of insurance coverage for the mandatory insurance of large-horned cattle has been

decreased from 3 rubles to 2.50 rubles, for voluntary insurance--from 3.50 rubles to 3 rubles.

Insurance will be produced in the amount of 40 percent of the average cost of livestock according to state procurement prices. On a voluntary basis cattle may be insured within the limits of the same sums as apply to the mandatory insurance. Sheep, goats and hogs may be insured on a voluntary basis for the sum of 80 percent of their average cost according to state procurement prices. The procedure for calculating the insurance compensation for the forced killing of livestock has been changed to the advantage of the insureds.

The reduction in the rates of insurance payments and the expansion in the coverage of insured property provide convincing evidence that the organs of the Main Administration of State Insurance are not involved in the pursuit of profits. The changes in the conditions of the insurance of structures and livestock on the farms of citizens increase the efficiency of state insurance as a socio-economic measure aimed at the strengthening and further increase of the well-being of the population.

The workers of the Main Administration of State Insurance, jointly with the aktiv of public organizations, must on a broad basis clarify the new insurance regulations to the owners of structures and livestock, so that every one of them has the possibility of utilizing the advantages of insurance and to secure for himself the maximum compensation of losses, which can be caused by natural disasters and other unfavorable events.

8970

CSO: 1827/144

HOUSING AND PERSONAL SERVICES

CARTOON COMMENTARY ON INEFFICIENT REPAIR SERVICE

Moscow KROKODIL in Russian No 2, Jan 83 p 13

[Text] Soon it will be 6 months since my washing machine was sent in for repairs. At the shop they told me to learn patience and wait as there were no spare parts, but no one knew when they would arrive. So I am doing my washing by hand; after all, man is created without spare parts.

(The sign above the window says REPAIRS. The last frame says "Read the newspaper URYUPINSKAYA PRAVDA." The small type says "To the attention of citizens who have submitted washing machines for repair to Rembyttekhnik during 1980-81: we ask that you drop by for re-registration to the city of Uryupinsk, Radischeva St. No 16.")

From the editors: Three months is, of course, not too short a time span. But neither is it too great. The announcement published last year in URYUPINSKAYA PRAVDA tries to convince (us) of this.

[Cartoon on following page]



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CSO: 1827/141

CONSUMPTION TRENDS AND POLICIES

GOSPLAN OFFICIAL ON BSSR LIGHT INDUSTRY PLANS 1981-1985

Minsk PROMYSHLENNOST' BELORUSSII in Russian No 5, May 82 pp 2-6

[Article by O. Shilov, chief of the Subdepartment for the Planning and Coordination of the Production of Consumer Goods of the Belorussian SSR State Planning Committee: "For the Good of the People"]

[Text] In the Basic Directions of USSR Economic and Social Development for 1981-1985 and the Period to 1990 it is stated: "To ensure in industry a faster growth rate of the production of products of group B as compared with the rate of group A."

How is this task being accomplished in our republic? The article, which the editorial board is offering the readers, answers this question.

For the sectors of industry of the republic, which produce consumer goods, 1981 was marked by good labor gains. Various items worth 85 million rubles were produced in excess of the plan, as against the 75 million rubles called for by the annual socialist obligations. A large number of televisions, radios, wristwatches, cotton and wool fabrics, rugs and carpet items, furniture and other goods of everyday demand were produced in addition to the plan.

Their quality has improved. Today in the republic nearly 3,000 items are marked with the honorary pentagon. Moreover, in 1981 goods of 2,195 descriptions received the symbol of good quality.

In the future, however, there is no less to do. First of all it is necessary to provide the increase of the production of consumer goods by 28.1 percent, or 11 billion rubles, with a smaller amount of capital investments as compared with the past five-year plan. Thus, whereas during the 10th Five-Year Plan the amount of capital investments in the sectors producing consumer goods came to more than 1 billion rubles, now it comes to only about 930 million rubles. It is planned to obtain about three-fourths of the increase of capacities at operating enterprises by their expansion, renovation and retooling. The significance of each percent of the increment has to be increased considerably. Thus, whereas during the past five-year plan it came to 271 million rubles, during the current five-year plan it is planned to increase it to 377 million rubles, or by 1.4-fold.

The first version of the comprehensive program of the increase of the production of consumer goods for 1981-1985 and the period to 1990, which, with allowance made for the remarks of the Central Committee of the Communist Party of Belorussia and the Belorussian SSR Council of Ministers, is being corrected, has been drawn up in our republic in conformity with the decisions of the 25th Plenum of the Central Committee of the Communist Party of Belorussia of 11 November 1980. The main goal of the program consists in the determination, on the basis of efficient norms of consumption, of the all-union specialization of the republic in the production and delivery of individual items to other economic regions of the country and the necessary production volumes of consumer goods by years of the current five-year plan and with respect to industrial goods up to 1990.

A peculiarity of the program is the fact that it encompasses the production of goods, including new goods, at all the enterprises of the republic, regardless of their departmental subordination, and has a sectorial and oblast breakdown. Critical analyses of the draft of the republic food program on the production of items by enterprises of the food, the meat and dairy, the fruit and vegetable, the milling and groats and the fish industries have been included in it for the complete determination of the total amount of goods for the current five-year plan. The drafting of the program was carried out with the extensive participation of the ministries, departments, oblast soviet executive committees and the Minsk City Soviet Executive Committee. The materials of the Belorussian SSR Ministry of Trade both on the current needs for goods and for the future were used in it.

The program consists of four sections: the production of items of light industry, cultural, personal and household goods, foodstuffs, the balances of the production and consumption of the basic types of industrial goods. The production of all types of fabrics, rugs and carpet items, nonwoven materials, hosiery, knit underwear and outerwear, including children's knitwear, headwear, footwear, fur and fur items, textile and leather haberdashery items, sewn items, special and work clothing is included in the section of light industry. The production of furniture, radios and televisions, cameras, electrical engineering items and lock hardware, bench and installation tools, carpenter's tools, kitchen utensils and household tools, garden and orchard implements and sporting equipment, toys and so on is included in the section of cultural, personal and household goods; the industrial production of meat, whole milk products, animal oil, cheese and various types of canned goods, sugar, vegetable oil, baked goods and confectionary items, beer and nonalcoholic beverages, flour-grinding, groat and other items is included in the section of foodstuffs.

The production of goods with respect to nearly 1,800 line items, including 900 line items at associations and enterprises of union subordination, is covered by the outlined program. Cultural, personal and household goods account for more than 1,500 descriptions, items of light industry--more than 200, foodstuffs--more than 50. The production of new items has been critically analyzed for nearly 300 descriptions, of them more than 180 are at enterprises of union subordination and 110 are in union republic, republic and local industry.

The total production volume of consumer goods, which is included in the program, should increase from 8.6 billion rubles in 1980 to 10.9 billion rubles in 1985. The output of goods during this period will increase by 26.1 percent (group B--by 28.1 percent). Here the proportion of industrial goods in the total amount of

goods will increase from 54.2 percent to 56.6 percent, of them cultural, personal and household goods--from 18.8 to 22.3 percent. In the total production volume of goods the share of Brest Oblast will come to 13.1 percent, Vitebsk Oblast--13.8 percent, Gomel Oblast--15.7 percent, Grodno Oblast--10.4 percent, Minsk Oblast--12.1 percent, Mogilev Oblast--11.6 percent and the city of Minsk--23.3 percent. During the 11th Five-Year Plan the production of goods will be developed most rapidly in Gomel (29.5 percent), Minsk (31.2 percent) and Mogilev (28.1 percent) Oblasts.

Great importance is being attached to the production of thread and corset items--an increase of 1.9-fold, silk fabrics and bed linen--1.5-fold, rubber footwear--33 percent, rugs and carpet items--28.9 percent, pants--22.4 percent, including for children--29.4 percent, headwear--35.8 percent, shirts made from cotton and blended fabrics for children--22.2 percent, overcoats, raincoats and jackets made from blended fabrics--33.5 percent, insulated sports jackets--24.1 percent and so on. The annual updating of the assortment of footwear by styles by up to 60-80 percent is envisaged.

The Belorussian SSR Ministry of Light Industry should complete the construction of the Bobrin Spinning and Weaving Factory with the placement into operation of capacities for the production of crude blended silk fabrics. The capacities will be expanded at the Brest Carpet and Felt Production Association, the Mogilev Production Association of Silk Fabrics (the second trimming works), the Zhlobin Factory of Artificial Fur (an experimental sewing works) and the Soligorsk Sewing Factory for the Sewing of Items Made of Artificial Fur. It is proposed to put into operation a building for the production of knitted cloth and to begin the construction of a spinning works at the Zhodino Sewing and Knitwear Factory, a spinning, weaving and trimming factory within the Baranovich Cotton Production Association with a yarn dyeing shop for the Zhlobin Factory of Artificial Fur and a trimming factory in Bobrin for the trimming of blended silk fabrics, to complete the expansion of the Grodno Thin Cloth Combine with the transfer of the weaving and trimming works to a new site, to renovate the Minsk Luch Footwear Production Association and a number of other enterprises.

The efforts of the collectives of the enterprises of light industry are also aimed at the economical and efficient use of raw material resources and the enlargement of the assortment. In particular, for the purposes of replacing natural raw materials it is planned to process during the five-year plan 150,000 tons of chemical fibers, which is 15 percent more than during the 10th Five-Year Plan. By means of the expansion of the use of secondary resources in the production of basic products 14,000 tons of cotton wastes, 21,000 tons of worsted and felt scraps and 640,000 tons of recovered wool from knitwear scraps will be produced.

Work is being performed on the development of goods of light-weight structures and on the decrease of their materials-output ratio. For example, at the Mogilev Production Association of Silk Fabrics by means of the assimilation of a new works during the years of the current five-year plan it is planned to produce 3 million running meters of fabrics. It is also proposed to install here a set of equipment for the application of designs by the intaglio method. At the Orsha Flax Processing Combine much is being done on the introduction in production of blankets and curtain fabrics made from ternary yard with the inclusion of flax, cotton and lavsan, as well as light-weight dress and underwear fabrics with the an openwork effect.

Advanced cutting methods: efficient combined and multiple-unit arrangements, standardized parts and overlays of increased length, will undergo extensive dissemination in the sewing industry. The use of a new cutting method on the basis of computers will make it possible to save annually 180,000 m² of fabrics of all types.

The production of artificial fur, two-fabric jacquard carpets and porcelain ware, including items of applied decorative art, will undergo further development. The work on the development of the specialization of works in a specific range of goods, including enterprises of the Baltic republics, will be continued. This step will decrease considerably the setting up of equipment again, which will ensure the further increase of production efficiency.

Various combinations of chemical fibers will be used in the assortment of silk fabrics. It is proposed to increase the production of suit and dress fabrics, as well as semilinen fabrics in a blend with chemical fibers. The average weight of 1 m² of fabrics will be decreased by 1 percent. The inclusion of chemical fibers in the yarn for rugs and carpet items will also increase.

The production of footwear with the chemical attachment of the lower part will be increased, the use of such materials as artificial leather with hygienic properties, artificial varnish and others will be expanded.

Particular attention is being devoted to the development of the production of mass demand goods: overcoats and raincoats, men's shirts, sports jackets, corset items, various types of clothing made from synthetic fabrics, a napped surface like velveteen and velvet.

Finishing works have to be built, in particular, within the Baranovich Cotton Production Association and the cotton-spinning factory of combed yarn in Zhodino. The retooling of the associations and enterprises of light industry on the basis of highly productive pneumatic and self-twisting spinning machines, draw looms and automated flow lines for the production of cotton underwear cloth, hosiery and sewn items is envisaged.

The production of cultural, personal and household goods at the enterprises of the republic during the 5-year period will increase by 1.4-fold and in 1985 will amount to 3.3 billion rubles (in retail prices). The associations and enterprises of union subordination account for more than 62 percent of their production.

At present in the republic there are 14 specialized enterprises and 6 specialized works of union subordination, which produce 87.7 percent of the cultural and personal goods. At 99 nonspecialized union enterprises consumer goods are being produced in special sections or shops of the main works. This group accounts for 12.3 percent of the total production of goods.

In the program it is stipulated that the proportion of cultural, personal and household goods in the total production volume at nonspecialized enterprises of union subordination will increase in Brest Oblast from 3.1 percent to 5.2 percent in 1985, Vitebsk Oblast--from 1.5 to 1.9 percent, in Grodno Oblast--from 2.3 to 4 percent, Mogilev Oblast--from 1.4 to 1.8 percent and the city of Minsk--from 7.8 to 9.5 percent. In individual oblasts the proportion of cultural and personal goods at nonspecialized enterprises is specified for 1985 at less than 3 percent, which is

connected, especially in Gomel and Minsk Oblasts, with the sharp increase of the production volumes of products for production purposes.

It is envisaged to increase the production of individual cultural, personal and household goods in the following amounts: televisions--1.6-fold, including color televisions--2-fold, household clocks--1.7-fold, household chemical items and varnishes and paints--1.5-fold, car radio-tape recorders--2-fold, light bulbs--1.4-fold, radio receivers--32.2 percent, gas stoves--28.8 percent, furniture--21.1 percent, high quality dishes--23.4 percent and cameras--25.4 percent. The production of a number of new technically complex items with improved consumer properties will be assimilated. In particular, at the Minsk Refrigerator Plant the production of the Minsk-16 and Minsk 22 refrigerators with greater convenience and reliability and Minsk-21 freezers is planned; at the Vitebsk Television Plant--Vityaz' Ts-220 color televisions; at the Belorussian Optical-Mechanical Association--two models of slide projectors of the Peleng series and Orion-34 cameras with a built-in flash; at the Minsk Timepiece Plant--Luch-1956 electronic mechanical quartz clocks; at the Minsk Gorizont Production Association--a fundamentally new model of the Okean-221 radio receiver with electronic mechanical control; at the Brest Household Chemical Plant--Bio-Mig paste, Yuliya and Pavlinka varnishes; at the Minsk Motorcycle and Bicycle Plant--a new model of a street motorcycle.

The production of new improved items, which are in demand among the population, will be assimilated at many machine building plants. Thus, at the Minsk Production Association for the Manufacture of Broaching and Cutting-Off Machines imeni S. M. Kirov it is planned to assimilate the production of suites for the entry way and a set for the bathroom, at the Minsk Plant of Automatic Lines--small high-security locks, at the Gomel Machine Tool Building Plant imeni S. M. Kirov and the Gidromavtomatika Production Association--flat folding umbrellas; at enterprises of radio electronics and instrument making--electric coffee grinders, electric spinning wheels, lamps, Belarus'-301 cassette recorders, frequency meters for ham radio operators and so on.

The production of furniture at enterprises of the Belorussian SSR Ministry of the Timber and Wood Processing Industry will increase during the five-year plan by 5.1-fold, high quality dishes at enterprises of the Belorussian SSR Ministry of the Construction Materials Industry--23.4 percent, porcelain ware--55 percent.

It is planned to increase the production volume of consumer goods at enterprises of local industry by 1.5-fold. More than 150 new types of goods worth 200 million rubles will be assimilated, including new types of household chemical items, musical instruments, furniture, locks, orchard and garden tools, plumbing fixtures, enamel ware, frying pans, washboards, equipment for tourists, dacha carts, bicycles for children, portable children's carriages and so on. It should be noted that work forces for the determination of the availability of the production wastes being formed and the elaboration of proposals on their efficient use have been created in the republic. They have checked 190 enterprises. Measures on the improvement of the use of production wastes have been elaborated on the basis of the materials of the checks. The measures were examined and endorsed by the Belorussian SSR Council of Ministers and were sent to the ministries and departments of the republic and to associations and enterprises for implementation.

At the same time the necessary increase in local industry of the production of plastic items, rugs, carpet and leather haberdashery items and several other goods is not envisaged for individual types of resources with allowance made for the forming material balances.

As is known, the meeting of the need of the population for consumer goods depends not only on their production directly in the republic, but also on their importation from other regions of the country. Therefore, along with the search for possibilities of the maximum production of these goods locally, the Belorussian SSR Ministry of Trade and the Belorussian SSR Union of Consumers' Societies should work more actively on the questions of the replenishment of the stock of goods when determining the amounts of deliveries from the centralized funds.

It is also necessary for the ministries and departments, the oblast soviet executive committees and the Minsk City Soviet Executive Committee to prepare the corresponding subprograms with a breakdown both by sectors and by territories. In turn this will enable the Belorussian SSR State Planning Committee to approach on a sounder basis the formulation of the plans of the production of consumer goods. The question of the comprehensive coordination of the prospects of the development of enterprises, shops and sections for the production of goods with the introduction of new equipment and technology, of the needs of the population with production and the manpower resources and of pricing with the assimilation of new fashionable goods is also ripe, that is, the problems of supply and demand must be directly linked. The version of the program on the increase of the production of consumer goods with the enlistment of the scientific and technical institutes of the Belorussian SSR State Planning Committee, which was made more specific by the scientific research institutions of the Belorussian SSR State Planning Committee, will cover all the components of the development of the production of consumer goods in their fundamental connection and unity with the accomplishment of the specific goals on the development and strengthening of the material and technical base, the improvement of the organization and the increase of the efficiency of production, the assimilation of new types of goods, the increase of the quality and the improvement of the assortment and the use of one's own raw materials and production wastes and will make it possible to outline more clearly the immediate and more distant goals and means, which are connected with the assurance of the necessary proportions between production and consumption, as well as the regulation of the commodity market for the purposes of the most complete meeting of the demands of the population.

For the purpose of improving the study of the demand for cultural, personal and household goods, which are not planned centrally, the Belorussian SSR Ministry of Trade needs to adopt the organization of the recording of the production of these goods, which was elaborated by the All-Union Scientific Research Institute of Consumer Demand and Market Conditions of the USSR Ministry of Trade.

The growing dynamics of demand is making more rigorous demands on the enterprises of union, union republic and republic subordination, which produce consumer items and cultural, personal and household goods. In case of a change of the demand and the appearance of a shortage they should have some reserve of production capacities and should have the opportunity to obtain in good time additional raw materials and to change the range of items.

Now about the practical possibility of coordinating the activity of the industry which produces consumer goods. It must be admitted that in this direction there are considerable reserves of the improvement of planning work. In particular, it is necessary to improve the system of economic contracts of industrial enterprises and trade organizations. They should be based first of all on the sound estimation of the demand of the population, which has been adjusted in accordance with the centrally established total production volume of goods in value terms. It is expedient to stipulate such an assortment of consumer items, which would be dictated first of all by the features of the region.

For the purposes of the further improvement of the management mechanism it is necessary to strengthen the contacts between the industrial ministries and departments and the trade organizations on the basis of 5-year agreements and annual economic contracts. They should become the most important component of planning, for which the procedure of the preparation for and holding of wholesale trade fairs has to be adjusted. It makes sense for the industrial ministries and departments of the republic jointly with trade organizations to expedite the development of an intersectorial automated system of deliveries and the marketing of products.

In our republic the cooperation of enterprises of all sectors of industry, including union and local industry, in the increase of the production of various goods--be it durable goods or simple items--is not being carried out at a sufficiently high level. It is necessary to agree more boldly to the shutting of individual unprofitable consumer goods sections and to the creation of well-equipped specialized shops and sections, which produce not random, but specially selected items which different groups of the population need.

It seems necessary to step up the elaboration and introduction in pricing practice of standard parametric price lists, which ensure the differentiation of retail prices subject to the materials-intensiveness and labor intensity of the production of items.

The organs of material and technical supply should devote more attention to the analysis of the technical and economic substantiation of the need for material resources, which is declared by consumers, the monitoring of the observance of the set rates of consumption and stocks of materials, the organization of systematic work on the reduction and elimination of the losses of material resources. In this sphere the fundamentally new approaches to the planning and coordination of the activity of the organizations and enterprises, which are engaged in the collection and processing of secondary resources and in scientific research work on the decrease of the amount of waste products being formed and the increase of the degree of their recovery, are of great importance. It is not easy to do all of this, since the inertia of the former notions, the customary methods of work and the established stereotype of management, when the quantitative aspect of the matter is placed in the forefront, is still strong. That is why more initiative must be shown, obsolete methods and instructions must be corrected more boldly and new initiatives and ideas must be supported in good time. Including such things as the complete utilization of secondary raw materials for the production of consumer goods. The experience of the Leningrad Soviet Executive Committee in the management of the production of consumer goods should be used more extensively.

In the Belorussian SSR Ministry of Local Industry it is necessary, in our opinion, to create a scientific production association for the manufacture of goods made from local raw materials and production waste. It could become the leading association in procedural questions, the drawing up of planning and design documents, the production of individual batches and the assimilation of the production of new types of goods for all the associations and enterprises, which are located on the territory of the republic. This association, by concentrating all the information on the study of the possibilities of enlarging the assortment, the improvement of the quality, the increase of the production of goods and the study of consumer demand, would be able to elaborate on a higher quality basis long-range programs on consumer goods and give practical assistance to ministries and departments, as well as planning organs in this important party matter.

The implementation of the outlined measures will make it possible to perform more purposefully the work on the meeting of the demand of the population for consumer goods.

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CONSUMPTION TRENDS AND POLICIES

TSENTROSOYUZ MEETS ON CONSUMER COOPERATIVES

Moscow SOVETSKAYA TORGOVLYA in Russian 10 Feb 83 pp 1-2

[Report on speech of First Deputy Chairman of the Board of the Central Union of Consumers' Cooperatives N. I. Supotnitskiy at the 5th Meeting, 10th Convocation, of the Council of the Central Union of Consumers' Cooperatives: "The Responsible Tasks of Consumer Cooperatives"]

[Text] The 5th Meeting, 10th Convocation, of the Council of the Central Union of Consumers' Cooperatives has been held in Moscow. The question "On the Work of Consumer Cooperatives on the Fulfillment of the Decisions of the May and November (1982) CPSU Central Committee Plenums and the USSR Food Program" was discussed.

First Deputy Chairman of the Board of the Central Union of Consumers' Cooperatives N. I. Supotnitskiy delivered the report.

The council members who are the chairmen of the boards of the republic unions of consumers' societies: the RSFSR Union of Consumers' Societies--V. F. Yermakov, the Ukrainian--S. V. Litvinenko, the Uzbek--Z. Sh. Siradzhev, the Belorussian--K. Z. Terekh, the Azerbaijan--Ch. K. Gasanov, the Turkmen--M. K. Nuryagdyev, Chairman of the Board of the Chita Oblast Union of Consumer's Societies of the Kazakh SSR M. V. Bekmanov, Director of the Belorussian Procurement Office of the Crimean Oblast Union of Consumers' Societies Zh. V. Fedotov, Deputy Chairman of the Board of the Peredetskiy Rayon Consumers' Society of Gorkiy Oblast V. P. Mikhailova, Chairman of the Board of the Budennovskiy Rayon Consumers' Society of the Stavropol Kray Union of Consumers' Societies V. A. Malyarevich and Chairman of the Trade Union Central Committee O. F. Bogacheva took part in the discussion of the report.

Deputy Chairman of the USSR Council of Ministers I. I. Bodyul delivered a speech at the meeting of the council.

Chief of the Trade and Domestic Services Department of the CPSU Central Committee Ya. I. Kabkov, First Deputy Chairman of USSR Gosplan Ya. P. Ryabov, USSR Minister of Trade G. I. Vashchenko,

Chairman of the USSR State Committee on Prices N. T. Glushkov, USSR Minister of Light Industry N. N. Tarasov, Deputy Chairman of the RSFSR Council of Ministers V. I. Kazakov, RSFSR Minister of Trade V. P. Shimanskiy and responsible staff workers of the CPSU Central Committee, the USSR Council of Ministers, the USSR Committee of People's Control, the AUCCU, ministries and departments took part in the work of the council meeting.

"The consumer cooperatives, guided by the decisions of the 26th CPSU Congress and the May and November (1982) CPSU Central Committee Plenums, are making their contribution to the fulfillment of the national economic plans and assignments and the accomplishment of the Food Program," N. I. Supotnitskiy said. "In 2 years of the 11th Five-Year Plan the plans of the retail commodity turnover of the trade network and public dining enterprises, state purchases and purchases at contract prices of the majority of types of agricultural products and raw materials, the output of the products of cooperative industry and the production of meat by means of the fattening of livestock and the raising of poultry were fulfilled.

"At the same time, when summarizing the work during the past year and 2 years of the 11th Five-Year Plan as a whole, it is necessary, as V. I. Lenin taught, to focus the main attention on the unsolved problems and the existing shortcomings.

"I will begin with the question of the direct contribution of consumer cooperatives to the Food Program of the country by means of the increase of the production volume of goods as their own industrial enterprises and the obtaining of a weight gain of meat at cooperative fattening farms and the increase of procurement activity. During the past 2 years food resources in the total amount of 22.4 billion rubles were obtained, including 11.4 billion rubles in 1982 (in retail prices). As compared with 1980 their amount last year increased by 24 percent. Moreover, in 2 years nonfood consumer items worth 866 million rubles were produced at cooperative enterprises. The set assignments as a whole were fulfilled.

"However, there are many shortcomings and unused potentials in the work of the sectors of our food complex. In the food industry the plans on the production of canned goods, nonalcoholic beverages and beer were not fulfilled in 1982 and for the 2 years of the five-year plan. In some unions of consumers' societies a decrease of the production volumes as compared with 1980 was even permitted. The causes of this lie first of all in weak planning and production discipline, in the minimized responsibility of the boards of the unions of consumers' societies and the managers of many enterprises for the assigned matter.

"The greatest bottleneck in the work of the canning sector," the speaker said, "is the supply of the enterprises with raw materials. The instructions on the change-over of canning enterprises to a broader assortment of products are being fulfilled unsatisfactorily in a number of places. Of the 312 canning enterprises of the system shops for the production of canned meats exist at only 97, and only 15 of them produce canned meats the year round. As in the past, wild fruits, berries and mushrooms are being poorly used in the canning industry.

"We are incurring great economic losses in connection with the production of low quality products. In the baking industry alone last year more than 8 percent of the checked products were condemned. In particular, in the Ukrainian Union of

Consumers' Societies--13 percent, the Tajik--more than 20 percent, the Uzbek and Turkmen--more than 25 percent, the Kirghiz--35 percent. The main causes of this are the low responsibility of the performers, flagrant violations of technological discipline, unsatisfactory quality control at all stages of production."

Further the speaker dwelled on the questions of the procurement activity of the consumer cooperatives. "In 1982 17.6 million tons of potatoes and fruit and vegetable products were purchased for the state reserves. We coped with the fulfillment of the plans and assignments on the purchase of the majority of types of agricultural products.

"The expansion of the purchases of agricultural products is of particular importance. In 2 years of the five-year plan about 1.9 million tons of meat products were purchased, including 985,000 tons in 1982 (according to the preliminary data), with an increase of 15 percent as against 1981. It is anticipated that the set assignment on the purchase of 1 million tons of meat, poultry and lard and their sale in the cities and workers' settlements will be fulfilled.

"However, in the organization of procurement," the speaker noted, "there are major shortcomings and untapped reserves. We annually fail to provide the population with a large amount of cucumbers, tomatoes and carrots.

"The decrease of the losses of agricultural products in the process of their purchase, transportation, storage and sale is a major problem. Last year the losses of potatoes, fruits and vegetables as a result of spoilage during storage came to more than 40,000 tons. During June-October 1982 alone about 70,000 tons of substandard produce were delivered to state trade from the organizations of the consumer cooperatives. The losses of produce, which came from the Ukrainian, Uzbek, Belorussia, Azerbaijan, Moldavian and Tajik Unions of Consumers' Societies, were especially large.

"Some improvement of the purchases of products from the population has been achieved. But it must be admitted that this work is still being developed very slowly and is taking place very irregularly.

"The state of affairs in the Ukraine is creating anxiety," Comrade Supotnitskiy said. "The republic union of consumers' societies did not cope with the fulfillment of the set assignment on the purchase of meat products from the population. And this year the cooperative workers of the republic are carrying out the purchase of meat at a very slow pace.

"Cooperative organizations are accomplishing the task of improving the supply of the population with meat also by the increase of its production at their own subsidiary farms. In 1982 72,000 tons of meat were obtained due to the weight gain of animals during fattening, 43 percent more than in 1980. But this is not enough.

"Such are some results of the fulfillment of our program of the increase of the food resources during the first 2 years of the five-year plan. It is possible to draw the conclusion: wherever the boards of cooperative organizations and their members have treated the assigned matter in a responsible, party-like and creative manner, there are also results. Obvious failures were detected in those unions of consumers' societies, in which production and planning discipline was minimized, in which the fulfillment of the assignments was allowed to take its own course.

"Only in this way, for example, is it possible to evaluate the work of the Board of the Armenian Union of Consumers' Societies and its chairman, Comrade Sarkisyan, personally. This union of consumers' societies in 2 years of the five-year plan in practice frustrated the fulfillment of all the basic plans and assignments, which were connected with the implementation of the Food Program. Such an attitude toward the matter does not conform to the demands which were made on managerial personnel by the November (1982) CPSU Central Committee Plenum.

"The state of affairs with procurements of wild produce is creating serious anxiety. In 2 years with an assignment of 288,000 tons only 199,000 tons of fruits, berries, cranberries, red whortleberries and mushrooms were purchased. Only the Latvian and Azerbaijan Unions of Consumers' Societies coped with the fulfillment of the assignments. The main causes of the nonfulfillment of the plan are the poor organization of the matter, the poor use of active methods of carrying out procurement and work with the population and the lack of preparation of procurement workers and the material and technical base for the more complete assimilation of wild resources.

"The draft of the program of the increase of the food resources of consumer co-operatives for the period to 1990 is being submitted for the consideration of the council meeting," the speaker said. "The assignments, which directly follow from the USSR Food Program, as well as the basic provisions of the comprehensive goal program of the increase of commodity resources, which was approved by the Board of the Central Union of Consumers' Cooperatives in January of last year, are the basis for this draft. In contrast to the goal program now in effect, the submitted draft covers the period of not only the 11th, but also the 12th Five-Year Plan.

"For the fulfillment of what has been outlined it is envisaged to allocate for the construction, renovation and retooling of projects of the food complex during the 11th Five-Year Plan more than 4 billion rubles and during the 12th Five-Year Plan--nearly 4.5 billion rubles."

Considerable space in the report was devoted to questions of the organization of trade and the improvement of the service of the population.

"In a speech at the November (1982) CPSU Central Committee Plenum Comrade Yu. V. Andropov stressed that concern about the Soviet individual, about the conditions of his work and daily life, about his spiritual development remains a most important program aim of the party. This found confirmation in the plan of economic and social development and the budget of the USSR for 1983, in the instructions of the Politburo of the CPSU Central Committee and the decree of the USSR Council of Ministers on questions connected with the regulation of the work schedule of the enterprises, organizations and institutions which are engaged in the service of the population.

"It should be said self-critically that serious shortcomings exist in the organization of trade in the countryside. The frustration of the fulfillment of the plan of the retail commodity turnover in 1982, the unjustifiably great increase of reserve commodity stocks and the accumulation of unmarketable and old goods attest to this.

"The causes of such a situation in many ways are connected with the obviously obsolete proportions in the distribution of goods between the city and the countryside

and with the passive role in these matters of the boards of many unions of consumer's societies. The assortment and quality of the items being supplied in many instances do not meet the demand being made by the rural population.

"The enterprises of cooperative industry can also do much for the more complete meeting of the need for goods. During the first 2 years of the five-year plan their production increased by 31 percent, but in many republics, krais and oblasts the existing possibilities of increasing the production of nonfood consumer items at cooperative enterprises are not being utilized."

Further the speaker dwelled on the tasks of the further development of urban cooperative trade in agricultural production. "In 2 years of the 11th Five-Year Plan agricultural products worth 5 billion rubles were sold to the population of cities and industrial centers and on the kolkhoz markets. With much assistance of party and soviet organs many unions of consumers' societies were able in a short time to develop a modern network of urban cooperative stores.

"Among the measures on the improvement of the social conditions in the countryside," Comrade Supotnitskiy emphasized, "an important role belongs to public dining. It must be admitted that the possibilities of consumer cooperatives in the development of this sector are being utilized far from completely.

"In the total volume of sold foodstuffs public dining at consumer cooperatives accounts for slightly more than 11 percent, while in state trade it accounts for nearly 21 percent.

"During the past five-year plan the Central Union of Consumers' Cooperatives and cooperative organizations locally actively carried out the complete rationalization of trade. Taking into account the economic and social impact of the complete rationalization of trade, a program of the complete rationalization of all the sectors of consumer cooperatives has been adopted for this five-year plan. It seems that the Council of the Central Union of Consumers' Cooperatives has the right to demand of the managers of cooperative organizations the most vigorous actions on the accomplishment of the assignments and measures, which are stipulated by the goal program."

The speaker spoke in detail about capital construction. "Although cooperative organizations for the most part coped with the plan assignments, in the development of this important sector there are significant shortcomings and untapped reserves. In many unions of consumers' societies as in the past the amount of unfinished construction is great, there is a serious lag in the construction of many projects which are connected with the accomplishment of the Food Program. The measures on the introduction of advanced methods of the organization of construction, which have justified themselves in practice, the brigade contract and the payment for labor by the job are being poorly implemented. The proper steps are not being taken on the attachment of personnel to construction organizations and on the development of the industrial base of their own construction organizations, the assignments on the placement of housing into operation are being frustrated. The situation is especially bad in the RSFSR, Ukrainian, Kazakh and Georgian Unions of Consumers' Societies.

"The decisions of the 26th CPSU Congress and the November Plenum of the party Central Committee direct the attention of the workers of the national economy, including of consumer cooperatives, to the assurance of the rapid changeover of the economy to the path of intensive development, the increase of responsibility and good organization, the tightening up of discipline in all the sections of economic activity.

"The main indicator of the efficiency of the economy is labor productivity. It is planned during the 11th Five-Year Plan to ensure the increase of the volumes of economic activity in all the sectors of consumer cooperatives, mainly by the increase of labor productivity, while the enterprises being newly built should be manned by the redistribution of the available number of workers."

The speaker dwelled on the questions of economy and thrift and noted that the decrease of losses within the limits of the established norms by 15-20 percent, and this is quite practicable, will make it possible to obtain an additional profit in the amount of not less than 30 million rubles and to preserve many valuable food products. "In the consumer cooperatives there are more than 2 million units of trade and technological equipment which consumes electric power. Its annual consumption comes to about 10 billion kWh. It is possible to save a considerable amount of the electric power which is being consumed.

"As a result of flagrant violations of state, production and labor discipline an extremely unsatisfactory state of affairs with the protection of socialist property has formed. The boards of many unions of consumers' societies have not drawn the necessary conclusions from the demands of the 26th CPSU Congress--to close tightly all loopholes for any encroachments upon socialist property.

"At a meeting with Moscow machine tool builders General Secretary of the CPSU Central Committee Yu. V. Andropov said: 'Why was the question of labor discipline raised so pointedly at the CPSU Central Committee Plenum? First of all this is a requirement of life. Because without the proper discipline--labor, planning, state--we will not be able to advance rapidly. Putting things in order actually does not require any capital investments, but provides an enormous impact.'

"These party requirements should become a law in the activity of all the boards, the managers of cooperative organizations and enterprises. It is necessary to increase the responsibility of personnel for the strictest observance of discipline and the statutory requirements.

"The collectives of cooperative organizations and enterprises, in entering the new year of 1983, have assumed high socialist obligations. The initiative of the cooperative workers of the Gorodetskiy Rayon Consumers' Society of Gorkiy Oblast on the early fulfillment of the plans of this year by means of stepped-up, economically sound socialist obligations has found extensive support. The task of the boards of the unions of consumers' societies and the consumers' societies is to perform extensive organizing work on the mobilization of labor collectives for the successful fulfillment of the plans and socialist obligations."

In conclusion the speaker on behalf of the participants in the council meeting expressed confidence that the workers of consumer cooperatives would display great organization and efficiency, discipline and the ability to work with total devotion

and would exert every effort in order to fulfill successfully the plans and assignments of 1983 and the 11th Five-Year Plan as a whole. The cooperative workers are making their worthy contribution to the fulfillment of the decisions of the May and November (1982) CPSU Central Committee Plenums and to the accomplishment of the Food Program of the country.

A discussion on the report developed. On the basis of the comprehensive discussion of the question the council adopted a detailed decree, in which specific steps on the elimination of the detected shortcomings and on the further increase of the efficiency and quality of the work of all the sectors of activity of consumer cooperatives were specified.

The council approved the allocation of assets for the pay of the Auditing Commission of the Central Union of Consumers' Cooperatives for 1983.

The council examined the organizational question. N. A. Sonina was removed from the council in connection with her transfer to another job and D. T. Pivkin was removed in connection with his retirement.

K. Mukhammetdinov and V. P. Rakitskikh were promoted from candidate members to members of the Council of the Central Union of Consumers' Cooperatives.

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